

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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Minutes – Special Meeting Monday, May 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Town / County Conference Room Mammoth Lakes, CA

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Kirk Stapp, Chairman
Bill Reid, Vice Chairman
Wendy Sugimura, Town Council
Tom Farnetti, Supervisor
Neil McCarroll, Town Council
Hap Hazard, Supervisor

Caltrans

Brad Mettam
Forest Becket
Tom Meyers
Cedrik Zemitis

Staff Present

Scott Burns, Director
Ray Jarvis, Co-Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County
Peter Bernasconi, TOML
Gwen Plummer, Planner, Mono County
Jennifer Hansen, Secretary
Kelly Garcia, Public Works, Mono County
Evan Nikirk, Public Works, Mono County

ESTA

John Helm, Executive Director

Agenda items may not have been taken in order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Reid at 9:02 a.m. Chairman Stapp requested Vice Chairman Reid conduct this meeting. The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner McCarroll.

1) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 14th, 2008

- a) Commissioner Sugimura motioned to approve the April 14th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hazard. Abstained by Chairman Stapp and Commissioner McCarroll. Passed 4-0. Those in favor: Sugimura, Hazard, Farnetti and Reid.

3) STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & PLAN

a) 2008 STIP/RTIP Update

Action: Received verbal update on California Transportation Commission staff recommendations; made revisions as seen appropriate; and approved Resolution 2008-05 amending the 2008 RTIP. Gerry Le Francois explained that on May 9th we received the recommendations from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on our RTIP. The LTC has programmed approximately \$13.3 million of its fund share of \$15.3 million. The CTC staff has recommended

only \$5.536 million in funding for our region, although it is committed to correcting a calculation error for the county's minimum share which should be \$6.093 million. Mr. Le Francois provided the commission with a handout of current projects. He mentioned that staff is reprogramming the Owens River project so the monies will support Chalfant and June Lake streets. Kelly Garcia mentioned that the Owens River project has had the environmental complete, the design phase will move forward, but construction will continue once funding is available. This RTIP will forego the Bridgeport and Lee Vining streetscapes now due to the cut in funding; possible PPM monies may be reallocated to help cover projects. All state and town projects will not be affected by this cut in funding. With the funding reduction, the need for a commissioner representative from the LTC to attend the STIP adoption hearing on May 29th may no longer be critical; staff will attend the meeting and will ask for an additional \$570,000 on top of the \$6.093 million.

Commission comments: Commissioner McCarroll questioned the money that was received from Proposition 1B. This money was programmed into the 2006 STIP augmentation to be used on road rehab projects in the Town (Meridian and Main Street signals). Brad Mettam mentioned that there are seven to eight different funding sources so money goes to different places. Mr. Mettam will do a presentation on Proposition 1B for better understanding at the next meeting. Commissioner McCarroll also questioned how political the process is with the CTC and if we should hire a lobbyist. Gerry Le Francois mentioned that a previous informational item (April 14th meeting) had an assembly bill which was vetoed regarding funding of local road rehabilitation. Rural counties continue to fight for "their" money. Commissioner Hazard questioned where the money that is allocated for these projects is kept. Brad Mettam explained that the State controls these monies rather than our commission.

The recommendation of the commission is to approve the reprogramming and reallocation of the 2008 RTIP via Resolution 2008-05. Commissioner Hazard moved to approve Resolution 2008-05 reprogramming and reallocating the 2008 RTIP. Seconded by Commissioner Farnetti. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Farnetti, Sugimura, Stapp, Reid, and McCarroll.

b) Quarterly update on projects in Town of Mammoth Lakes

Action: Informational. Received quarterly update from Town of Mammoth Lakes regarding current status of LTC projects.

Peter Bernasconi provided a list of projects for the commission. Projects discussed included: Canyon et al Rehab; South Main Street Frontage Road/Chateau Road Rehab; Meridian Reconstruction; Lake Mary Bike Path; North Main Frontage Road Rehab; Southerly Airport Access; Lower Canyon Boulevard Rehab; Main Street Signalization; Laurel Mountain Sidewalks (Caltrans Cooperative Agreement); and Lakeview Road (Voodoo Chute). No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

c) Quarterly update on projects in Mono County

Action: Informational. Received quarterly update from Mono County regarding current status of LTC projects.

Kelly Garcia provided a list of projects for the commission. Projects discussed included: Lundy Lake Road; Lee Vining Streetscape; Owens River Road; Owens Gorge Road; Bridgeport Streets; Lee Vining Streets; and County Transportation Enhancement Projects. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

d) Quarterly update on state projects in Mono County

Action: Informational. Received quarterly update from Caltrans regarding current status of LTC projects.

Brad Mettam, Tom Meyers, and Cedrik Zemitis provided a list of projects for the commission. Projects discussed included: Independence/Manzanar Four-Lane; Blackrock Four-Lane; Conway Ranch Passing Lane; Conway Vista Cut; Rock Creek CAPM; North Conway Shoulder Widening; Lemus Curve; Sonora Wildlife Crossing; North Sherwin Summit Rehab; Bridgeport Passing Lanes; Crestview Rest Area Rehab (ADA); Mammoth Pavement Preservation; South Sherwin Summit

Rehab; Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane; Highpoint Curve Realignment; Point Ranch Curve; Lee Vining Rockfall; Crestview Maintenance Station; Gaz Ex; SR 158 Shoulders; June Lake Sidewalk Repair; Mammoth Lakes Roundabout.

Commission comments: Vice Chairman Reid wanted to know if the rehab to Crestview would allow the facility to be operational year round. Tom Meyers stated that the rehab will allow for a year round facility but maintenance costs are too high so it will remain a seasonal rest area until funding is available to keep it open year round. Brad Mettam mentioned that the maintenance staff is working on additional funding but have been unsuccessful. Commissioner Hazard asked if pressure from the LTC would help. Brad will follow-up with Tom Hallenbeck to see what the LTC can do. Commissioner Sugimura questioned the prioritization of SHOPP money and what gets allocated with these funds? Brad Mettam mentioned that there are 18 to 20 programs with certain criteria for the CTC allocation. Changes for each two year cycle is done with performance measures and ranking and then proposed to the CTC for funding. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

4) ADMINISTRATION

a) **California Transit Security Grant Program FY 2007-2008**

Action: Adopted Resolution 2008-03 allocating \$11,020 of Transit System, Security and Disaster Response Account GC 8879058(a)(2) program funds to ESTA for transit shelter security lighting and authorized staff to file associated documentation.

The Mono County Local Transportation Commission is eligible for Transit System, Security and Disaster Response Account GC 8879058(a)(2) allocations of \$11,020 for transit system security purposes in Mono County. An application for security lighting for several ESTA transit shelters has been conditionally approved by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. Motion-sensor solar-powered security lightening will be purchased and installed on several transit shelters scheduled for construction this year. Lighting is Night Sky Ordinance approved. Commissioner action is to adopt Resolution 2008-03 allocating \$11,020 of Transit System, Security and Disaster Response Account funds to ESTA for transit shelter security lighting and to authorize staff to file associated documentation. Chairman Stapp moved to approve Resolution 2008-03 allocating \$11,020 to ESTA for transit shelter security lighting and to authorize staff to file associated documentation. Seconded by Commissioner McCarroll. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Stapp, McCarroll, Hazard, Farnetti, Sugimura, and Reid.

b) **Unmet Needs Resolution**

Action: Reviewed unmet needs and adopted Resolution 2008-04 marking findings concerning local unmet transit needs for FY 2008-09.

Gwen Plummer explained that a hearing of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council was held on April 4th and an Unmet Needs hearing was held on April 14th during the LTC meeting. Little feedback was given throughout the process this year. There are no unmet needs at this time that are reasonable to meet. Gwen mentioned that this is the last unmet needs hearing as funding has been used and TDA states we don't need to hold anymore unmet needs hearings. Commissioner action is to adopt Resolution 2008-04 stating that there are no unmet needs that are reasonable to meet for FY 2008-2009. Commissioner Farnetti moved to approve Resolution 2008-04 stating that there are no unmet needs that are reasonable to meet for FY 2008-2009. Seconded by Commissioner Hazard. Passed 6-0. Those in favor: Farnetti, Hazard, Stapp, McCarroll, Sugimura, and Reid.

COMMISSIONER SUGIMURA WAS DISMISSED FROM THE MEETING AT 10:00 AM DUE TO ANOTHER MEETING THAT REQUIRED HER ATTENDANCE.

c) **California Regional Blueprint Planning Program selection for first year funding (FY 07/08) for the Eastern Central California Blueprint Project**

Action: Adopted Resolution 2008-06 accepting and supporting the Eastern Central California

Blueprint Project.

Gerry Le Francois explained that with Inyo LTC and Kern COG of the Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership, we applied and have been awarded a Blueprint Planning Grant in the amount of \$50,000. This grant will be coordinated with the past award of a community planning grant in the amount of \$199,602. The money and work activities will be incorporated into the FY 2008-2009 Overall Work Program. Commission action is to adopt Resolution 2008-06 allowing for commission support and fiscal responsibilities to use this grant with the money predominantly being used in the Eastern Sierra to look at potential growth scenarios. Commissioner Hazard moved to approve Resolution 2008-06 allowing for commission support and fiscal responsibilities for the Blueprint Planning Grant in the amount of \$50,000. Seconded by Chairman Stapp. Passed 5-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Farnetti, McCarroll, and Reid.

5) CALTRANS

a) **Safety on Highway MOU Projects**

Action: Informational. Received information regarding the current safety issues on the potential MOU replacement candidate projects.

At the April LTC meeting, potential MOU replacement candidate projects were identified from the Caltrans Project Initiation Document list in order to prepare for the possibility of Highpoint project not moving forward as the Mono County MOU project. The importance of knowing the safety benefits behind the candidate projects was voiced, so Caltrans prepared some information to share regarding the current safety issues which many of these candidate projects are aimed at addressing. A handout of GIS maps was provided to the commission on Lemus Curve, Point Ranch Curve, and Rattlesnake Rock. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

b) **Update on activities in Mono County**

Action: Informational. Received an update on information from National, State, and Local resources that are related to activities in Mono County.

Brad Mettam mentioned that the construction season has begun. They are having problems, especially around the Blackrock project, where people are not slowing down in the construction zones. He also mentioned that all the mountain passes are open except 120.

Forest Becket reported that they have started the shoulder construction on highway 158 in June Lake. Construction will start on the Gull Lake culvert repair and resurfacing. Construction will begin for the overlay in Lee Vining, 120 E, 203, and four locations in Bridgeport along 395. Construction will begin on the chip seals on 167 – three miles from the junction of 395, 120 W, and 120 E.

Commission comments: Commissioner Hazard questioned the status on the new passing striping in Chalfant. Brad Mettam said he would look into its status. Vice Chairman Reid questioned Connor Lane to 395 N in Bridgeport. He stated the top layer of shoulder is gone and when this freezes, it is potentially hazardous. This is not a county road but is this something Caltrans would look at? Brad Mettam said he would look into this. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

6) TRANSIT

a) **ESTA Budget Update**

Action: Informational. Received information on the draft budget for ESTA for FY 2008-2009.

John Helm, Executive Director, reported that it has been a challenging financial year for ESTA. He believes the revenues will be flat this next fiscal year. He mentioned that the fare increase did not diminish ridership and will help offset the diminishing revenues. He said that ESTA is experiencing increased operating costs. The largest factors to this increase are fuel costs and maintenance costs due to an "older" fleet. He reported that seven replacement vehicles are in the works. Operating expenses are expected to exceed revenues. On June 13th, the ESTA Board

will meet to approve the budget and any recommendations for the next fiscal year. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

b) **Short Range Transit Plan Update**

Action: Informational. Received an update on the progress of the Short Range Transit Plan (STRP).

John Helm, Executive Director, reported that the Short Range Transit Plan is currently in progress. This plan will identify transit needs for a five year period. On May 29th, a workshop will be conducted with the consultants and the ESTA Board regarding current findings. A report will be given at the next meeting. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

c) **Town of Mammoth Lakes Winter to Summer Service Changes**

Action: Informational. Received information regarding the winter to summer service changes for transit.

ESTA is currently making the transition from the winter schedule to the summer schedule. They plan on extending the hours of The Lift in the Town of Mammoth. It will run from 6:30am to 8:30pm. They will be eliminating two Dial-A-Ride routes. They plan to modify and expand the Mid-Town Lift route to accommodate the elimination of the Dial-A-Ride. The reduced Dial-A-Ride modification will take effect on June 14th.

Brad Mettam questioned whether the ESTA Board will approach the commission regarding these and future route changes? John Helm responded no. The ESTA Board will take options and recommendations from the commission but will be providing the direction on all routes and passing that information along to the commission. Scott Burns mentioned that these actions of the ESTA Board will be driven by the Short Range Transit Plan and will help guide future decisions. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

d) **YARTS Update**

Action: Informational. Received an update on YARTS activities.

Handout given to commissioners in packet. No new information presented at meeting. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a) **Coordinated Transportation Plan** – Workshop dates and information provided in packet. Commissioner Hazard mentioned his concern for seniors and their ability to reach these meetings. It was suggested that Phil McGuire possibly hold meetings at senior centers to help with outreach. It is also a possibility to go through the IMAAA program. It might also be a possibility to conduct phone surveys or mail surveys as an avenue to reach seniors.

8) SCHEDULE MEETING – June 9th, 2008

9) ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. by Vice Chairman Reid.